Dear Applicant,

We are excited about your interest in the Community Engagement and Play position at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church. One of the major components of the job will be to help us move forward with some new initiatives that we are undertaking as a congregation. So, we thought we would offer a written descriptive of what those are to help you in your discernment about the position itself.

In 2021, a “Dream Team” was formed to dream up new possibilities for us as a church, particularly when it comes to our presence to the needs of the wider community. The team prayed together, met with community leaders, looked at local statistics, and ultimately came back with recommendations we have adopted and are now pursuing. The rest of this letter highlights those initiatives.

Last year, Canyon Creek officially became part of the Matthew 25 church movement within the PCUSA. We think of this as the overarching umbrella for everything we are about from this point forward. Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage in the world around us as we wake up to new possibilities. As a Matthew 25 church, we seek to address the following priorities:

1. Poverty by partnering with local organizations and municipalities to help alleviate the growing reality of poverty in our community.
2. Racism by partnering with a neighbor church that is demographically diverse from us in order to have ongoing dialogue, learn from one another, do ministry together, and advance awareness of the realities that people of color so often face but are rarely acknowledged or addressed.
3. Congregational Vitality by challenging ourselves to deepen our own faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with the community and the world.

The other new initiatives, all of which fall within the scope of Matthew 25, are as follows:

1. Earlier this year, we began a partnership with True Love Church, a predominantly African American congregation in Garland that specializes in reaching out to an unchurched element in the community, particularly those who are overlooked by society (i.e. former prison time, addiction, poverty, etc.). Our initial efforts have been to invite them to large events we host on our campus as well as to send ambassadors from our church to worship with them on Sunday mornings. Our partnership is still growing and has great potential for the future.
2. In July of this year, we signed an agreement with The Center for Integrative Counseling and Psychology (The Center) to begin a satellite location in our facility that provides counseling services once or twice a week, depending on the need.
3. Down the road, we plan to begin a new outreach called #Connect. The idea is that this will be comprised of numerous support groups, workshops, and other various learning opportunities for people in the community to take part in. It is still in the very early stages of development.

The Community Engagement and Play position will have a key role in coordinating and resourcing these initiatives as our congregation becomes more Matthew 25 focused, living into our mission statement of *following Jesus Christ by building relationships wherever we go!* We look forward to the person God taps on the shoulder and are eager to begin conversation.

Gratefully,

The Community Engagement and Play Search Committee